

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 163  
 Marine Aircraft Group 36  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
 FPO San Francisco 96602

3:WRW:djl  
 5750  
 SerNo: 03A06468  
 4 March 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36

Subj: Command Chronology, 1-29 February 1968

Ref: (a) GruO 5750 Series

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, 1-29 February 1968

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is declassified to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*C. L. Smith*  
 C. L. SMITH  
 By direction

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HM-163

CMO CHRON

FEB 1968

Enclosure (6)

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 163

1 - 29 February 1968

Marine Quang Tri Airfield, Republic of Vietnam

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## A. PART ONE - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

## 1. Commanding Officer and Staff

- a. Louis W. SCHWINDT, LtCol., Commanding Officer, 1-29 February 1968
- b. William T. LUNSFORD, Major, Executive Officer, 1-29 February 1968
- c. Clarence L. SMITH, Major, Operations Officer, 1-29 February 1968
- d. Franklin D. RICHEY, Major, Logistics Officer, 1-29 February 1968
- e. Bernard M. GORDON, 1stLt., Aviation Safety Officer, 1-29 February 1968.
- f. James L. RIGGS, Major, Maintenance Officer, 1-29 February 1968
- g. Robert E. ILZHOFER, Major, Administration Officer, 1-4 February 1968.
- h. Henry L. EISENSEN, Major, Administration Officer, 5-25 February 1968
- i. Gerard P. TETU, 1stLt., Administration Officer, 26-29 February 1968
- j. John A. GIDDINGS, Lieutenant, USN(MC), Medical Officer, 1-29 February 1968
- k. Robert H. BLUHM, Captain, Intelligence Officer, 1-29 February 1968
- l. Jac A. CHRISTIANSEN, 1stLt., Custodian, S&C Files, 1-29 February 1968.

## 2. Task Organization

Location - Marine Quang Tri A.F., Republic of Vietnam, 1-29 February 1968

## 3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine		Navy	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
44	173	1	0

## 4. Important Visitors

None, during this reporting period

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## B. PART TWO - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 February 1968 - 6 February 1968 - HMM-163 conducted normal operations in the northern I corps area (Khe Sanh included) in support of the Third Marine Division. The squadron evacuated 343 medevacs in 61 missions, 25 of which were flown at night.

7 February 1968 - Squadron aircraft continued flight operations in the Quang Tri/Khe Sanh areas. Five medevac missions, including 2 flown during the night time hours hauled a total of 45 evacuees. YP 22, BUONO 147150, suffered echo damage from enemy small arms fire while in the process of an emergency medevac mission. A short time later at Khe Sanh, YP 19 BUONO 149375, was damaged by mortar shrapnel. There were no injuries to any of the personnel involved in each incident.

8 February 1968 - 12 February 1968 - Operations were carried out in the Quang Tri and Khe Sanh areas during this period. One hundred and forty-four (144) casualties were carried in 45 medevac missions, 12 of which were flown at night.

13 February 1968 - Normal operations continued in the northern I corps area. Seven medevac missions, 6 night time, evacuated 21 troops/pax. A section of UH-34's at Khe Sanh on a resupply mission, received .50 caliber, mortar and rocket fire on hill 881 and while in the Khe Sanh LSA. YP 14, BUONO 150208 took a total of 20 holes in the fuselage and rotor blades, while YP 5, BUONO 150722, suffered 8 hits. There were no injuries to members of either crew.

14 February 1968 - HMM-163 continued in support of the Third Marine Division. Fifteen medevac missions accounted for 44 evacuees. Four emergency missions were flown at night. One squadron aircraft, YP 12 buono. 150729, received numerous shrapnel holes in its fuselage and fuel cells. All of the crew members escaped injury.

15 February 1968 - Normal operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Khe Sanh areas with 10 medevac missions (6 at night) hauling 32 casualties. There were four aircraft damaged as a result of direct enemy action on this day. YP 23 (BUONO 148788) took 3 hits while engaged in a hoist pickup. YP 1 (BUONO 147168) received 5 hits during the course of a medevac mission requiring a hoist pickup. Shortly after, in the same zone and again on a hoist pickup. YP 14 (BUONO 150208) received numerous small arms hits wounding the pilot, crew chief and gunner. Meanwhile at Khe Sanh, YP 2 (BUONO 148801) took a large number of shrapnel holes from an incoming mortar.

16 February 1968 - The squadron continued in support of the Third Marine Division. Nine medevac missions, 4 of which were conducted at night, evacuated 37 casualties. YP 5 (BUONO 150722) received 16 small arms hits while sitting in an LZ on an emergency recon extract. YP 11 (BUONO 145793), engaged in the same mission and while in the same Landing zone, sustained 5 hits wounding both the crew chief and the gunner. YP 3

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(BINO 150212), took an estimated 200 shrapnel holes from an incoming mortar shell at Khe Sanh, with the pilot of the aircraft suffering minor wounds.

17 February 1968 - 24 February 1968 - HMM-163 continued normal operations in the Quang Tri/Khe Sanh areas in support of the Third Marine Division. Forty-four medevac missions, including 15 at night, evacuated 158 casualties.

25 February 1968 - Squadron aircraft conducted normal operations, flying 5 medevac missions for a total of 12 evacuees. YF 16 (BINO 150725) while on an emergency medevac pickup at hill 881, was shot down in the zone by .50 caliber fire. The crew and medevacs were later pickup by another aircraft.

26 February 1968 - 29 February 1968 - Normal operations continued in the northern I corps area. Thirty-two medevac missions hauled 83 casualties. Two of the missions were carried out at night. During this period, 7 recon inserts and 2 extracts were flown.

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## C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. Personnel

As of 29 February 1968, forty-four (44) officers and one hundred and seventy-three (173) enlisted men comprised HMM-163. This shows an increase of officers over the previous month. Six (6) officers and twelve (12) enlisted were joined during the month.

## 2. Administration

No significant events

## 3. Awards

One hundred and twenty-three (123) Air Medals were awarded during the month of February.

## 4. Casualties

Six WIA's were suffered during the month of February.

## 5. Civic Action

No significant events

## 6. Morale/Welfare programs

No significant events

## 7. Information Services

No significant events

## 8. Intelligence/Counter Intelligence

No significant events

## 9. Air Operations

- a. Flight Hours - 773.1
- b. Flights/Sorties - 523/2239
- c. Passengers - 1884
- d. Cargo - 142.5
- e. Medevacs - 856

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## 10. Special Operations

HMM-163 supported Operations Kentucky, Lancaster, Saline, Napoleon, Scotland, and Dyemarker.

## 11. Training

No significant events

## 12. Ground Defense

No significant events

## 13. Logistics

No significant events

## 14. Motor Transports

No significant events

## 15. Maintenance

No significant events

## 16. Avionics

No significant events

## 17. Base Developments

None

## 18. Career Advisery

No significant events

## D. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None